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## Our Country's Opportunity

IF the United States government can keep out of all embroilment in the present war and has the wisdom to so adjust our own affairs in the way of the greatest good for all the people, by the time the war closes and the ravaged industries of Europe can once more be gathered up and woven into form, our nation will have the vantage ground over all the world.

Great Britain held the place for seventy-five years after Waterloo; then Germany began to dispute with her for prominence and brought to her aid the practical and intellectual culture of her people, built a merchant marine and sailed it and supplied her ships with goods and wares that tempted buyers in places where Great Britain believed she was supreme; made room and work for all her fast increasing people, and out of her gigantic undertaking gained so rapidly in wealth that all Europe acknowledged her superiority.

She did it, too, with not half the facilities that our country possesses. But our statesmen looked on undisturbed even when they saw that our country supplied more than half the wealth that Germany, France and Great Britain were absorbing. And some of the foremost journals of our country have helped to supply our lawmakers with excuses for their apathy, stupidity and petty provincialism.

But now Great Britain is in close alliance with the most despotic of civilized nations and also with another power that is purely Asiatic, and which the world distrusts.

When the war is over what will the settlement between them be?

Again, when the war is over and Great Britain and Germany repair their factories and set their merchant fleets once more to work, where will their foreign trade be when we consider the hates that the present war will engender?

This certainly supplies the opportunity for our country, if those who direct our government have the capacity to see what is offered and the statesmanship to provide the needed means.

The three greatest essentials are first to keep our factories running and build more.

Second, to provide a modern merchant marine to make regular calls at the chief ports of the world.

Third, to so readjust our finances that the differences in the world's exchanges will no longer close the ports in our faces behind which more than half the people of the world live.

That would set all our idle men at work and do for us what was long ago foretold would be done.

Away back in 1867, forty-seven years ago, Michel Chevallier made a report to the universal

international exposition at Paris, an extract of which reads as follows:

"It seems that the supreme authority is about to escape from western and central Europe, to pass to the new world. In the northern part of the other hemisphere offshoots of the European race have founded a vigorous society, full of sap, whose influence grows with a rapidity that has never yet been seen anywhere. In crossing the ocean it has left behind on the soil of old Europe, traditions, prejudices and usages which, as impediments heavy to move, would have embarrassed its progressive march. In about thirty years the United States will have, according to all probability, a hundred millions of population, in possession of the most powerful means, distributed over a territory which would make France fifteen or sixteen times over, and of the most wonderful disposition.

"Vainly do the occidental and central nations of Europe attribute to themselves a primacy which, in their vanity, they think sheltered from events and eternal, as if there were anything eternal in the grandeur and prosperities of societies, the works of man."

If we have fallen short of realizing the prediction of Chevallier, it has been our own fault, our own sins of omission and commission.

Four years later, in 1871, in the Spanish cortes, the great Castellar seemed impressed with the same ideas that Chevallier had given voice to. He said:

"America, and especially Saxon America, with its immense virgin territory, with its republic, with its equilibrium between stability and progress, with its harmony between liberty and democracy, is the continent of the future—the immense continent stretched by God between the Atlantic and Pacific, where mankind may plant, essay and resolve all social problems."

Europe has to decide whether she will confound herself with Asia, placing upon her lands old altars, and upon the altars old idols and upon the idols immovable theocracies and upon the theocracies despotic empires, or whether she will go by labor, by liberty, and by the republic to collaborate with America in the grand work of universal civilization."

Above we have the thoughts of two great souls towards our country. Are we great enough as a people to cause the dreams of those men to be realized? We have now the opportunity. Is our government great enough to see our place and to put forth the means to seize and utilize the opportunity?

## Employers and Employees

A CRISIS is on the world just now. The life or death of nations hangs in the balance in Europe; under the tremendous upheaval all enlightened people are disturbed and distressed.

The practical question in the United States is how the business of the country can be adjusted with the least jar and confusion. A month ago the thought was that the returns from the harvests would yield so much that whatever industry was halting would receive the necessary

stimulus to acquire full momentum. But at present the harvest cannot be sold because of want of ocean transportation and worse still, the market for some of the most important products of the west has been absolutely destroyed. The effect is great depression and confusion.

Base metal mining is hard hit, but the managers of the mines are struggling to give as many men as possible employment, and where the full force cannot be given work, in many cases half work is given that the crucial time may be passed over. The coal mines are running full forces in preparation for the winter's needs and the spirit of employers everywhere seems to be to make every possible effort to tide over the unexpected catastrophe until the commerce of the ocean can be restored to at least partially normal conditions.

At such a time there should be mutual forbearance between employees and employers, and while employers are showing by their acts that the interest of their employees is a matter of much concernment to them, the thought of employees, it seems to us, should be to hold their places if possible.

What directly prompts this is the present friction between the printers' union in this city and their employers. Of the right or wrong of the controversy we have no opinion, for we know nothing of the facts; but we do know the situation and we write this in the interest of the poor men in the union who cannot afford to be thrown out of employment with an absolutely uncertain winter before them.

Our belief is that the chief forces of the war will be expended in the coming ninety days, because the strain on the old world seems too terrible to hold out longer. But that is only speculation. No one can be a safe prophet when an earthquake is on the march, of how long before its impelling forces may cease to grind their way.

And our judgment is that no union leaders at such a time as this have any right to jeopardize the only means which the poor men of their union have through which to feed and clothe their wives and babies. If they decide to strike, their employers will get along even if they have to close their shops, but what will the poorer of the employees do?

The sensible way to settle such differences is by arbitration. It will have to come to that at last. Why not appeal to it now?

There is another feature to all this. The war abroad should make our country one grand school of patriotism. Our people should see at a glance how infinitely better off they are than any other people and should draw nearer together and have a closer sympathy for each other's troubles. Our country was long ago perfectly represented by the quiver filled with arrows. Together they are invincible; separated they are helpless as grains of sand. This unity should extend to every honest walk of life and men while thinking of what they can do for themselves, should include the other thought, "What can I do for my neighbor?"